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owing to the rapid increase of the population and the eternal "land-famine". "In our days, the economic . . . life of the Russian village is more than melancholy. It is not life, it is the slow death of creatures incessantly hungry, whose starvation can only be compared to that of the . . . poverty-stricken masses of the East, of Persia, India and China" (p. 146). A prey to famine, cholera, typhoid, alcoholism, the Russian people are threatened with physical and moral degeneration. The failure of the revolution M. Alexinsky ascribes chiefly to the split between the Liberal bourgeoisie and the Socialist and Labor parties, which followed the popular victory in October, 1905. After describing with somewhat ghastly realism Stolypin's methods of "pacification" and the season of disillusionment, lassitude, and despair that followed, the author concludes that by 1910 the worst of the reaction was over, the revolutionary forces are again gathering momentum, and "distant as yet, already foams the crest of that wave which will sweep us away anew" (p. 293).

The historical parts of the book are to be used with caution; for instance, the author's attempt virtually to identify Russian "feudalism" with that of the West, following the radical and by no means generally accepted theories of the late M. Pavlov-Silvanski. The reader will scarcely fail to note some strange juggling with statistics. For example, on page 144 we read that the appanages of the Imperial Family include eighteen million acres: on page 145 they have risen to 21,300,000 acres. To say that the 2647 great landowners form 56.6 per cent. of the 5252 members of the electoral colleges for the Duma is to bid defiance to arithmetic (p. 279). The translator has followed the time-honored custom of transliterating Russian names for English readers in a manner to make them pronounceable only to Frenchmen.

R. H. LORD.

Memoirs of Li Hung Chang. Edited by WILLIAM FRANCIS MANNIX, with an Introduction by JOHN W. FOSTER. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1913. Pp. xxvii, 298.)

THE foundation of a successful official career in China rests, as everyone knows, upon literary training. While few of her modern statesmen have achieved distinction as authors the fact is usually explained by the arduous nature of their duties; Li Hung-chang's literary *Nachlasse* suggest that this sterility is rather apparent than real. In a country where the usual motives of justifying one's public acts or of acquiring literary celebrity are absent the intellectual activities of its best minds are displayed only in private, and the people are given no share in the discussion of national problems. In the case of Li, who seems to have been sensible of a real literary ambition, literary material to the amount of fifteen hundred thousand words was found at the time of his death in his various residences, most of it composed in brief intervals of leisure as a relief from official cares or to show to his

personal friends. If others of his class have been as prolific as he in expressing their sentiments on paper we shall gain a new conception of the intellectual life of Chinese statesmen during the past century. In the present instance, the first of the kind that has been interpreted to the Western world, the data for forming an estimate of the author's character and acts prove to be rather disconcerting. So far as it is given to us the whole mass strikes the outsider as being singularly amateurish, fragmentary, and unconvincing. Only a tenth of the matter, we are told, has been translated, the selections which are accorded a place in the present volume being poetical effusions, random remarks on religion, agriculture, and affairs, and notes upon the men and events of his time. The latter are more or less fugitive, those on the same topic being sometimes written at widely varying dates, but they constitute the main interest of the collection.

The value of these, from the historian's point of view, is impaired by the circumstances attending their publication. No intimation is given that the originals have been published in China or that they are anywhere available for comparison with the translations. The translators are named in such a way in the preface as to render their identification difficult, while the American editor's ignorance of Chinese—revealed in his mistakes in Chinese proper names and by other errors—arouses misgivings as to his fitness for the task of selecting and arranging material of such importance. Some passages occur which are so unlike Chinese modes of expression as to suggest a very free paraphrase of any possible Chinese originals. While every translator must be allowed a considerable degree of liberty, the freedom with which English turns of thought as well as idioms are here employed excites some suspicion as to the accuracy with which the author's own ideas have been treated. Furthermore, though Li was a man of strong feelings and passion he was notably explicit in saying what he meant. Ignorance or indifference about foreign names may account for his glaring invention in describing incidents in places abroad which he never saw, as Munich and Windsor, Chicago and San Francisco, but it is difficult to account for his declaration that he was present at the bedside of the dying General Ward, who succumbed to his wounds in Ningpo, a town outside of his province. A governor under the old régime in China was never allowed to leave the province where he ruled. Again, he refers to seeing the execution of the rioters at Tientsin in 1870 in company with representatives of the foreign powers. There were no foreigners present at the execution, and Li himself could not have been there unless in disguise—which is utterly improbable. In each of these cases Li's presence would have been known and recorded at the time.

While discrepancies like these require explanation before the *Memoirs* can be taken seriously as an authoritative source for modern Chinese history, the book is not without considerable interest to the general reader. Unscrupulous, arrogant, and insatiable in his appetite for money and power, Li was, nevertheless, a wit, a scholar, and a generous friend.

Like some other great Orientals known to history, it would seem as though the great vices so controlled his nature as to leave no place for the little ones. He won his reputation at a time of crisis by his energy and his capacity for taking responsibility; he convinced the distracted Manchu court that he was their only servant who could deal with the inexplicable foreigner; he showed the famous Empress Dowager how corruption could be developed into a fine art, and in an unholy alliance with her he robbed the revenues of his country and died the richest man in the empire. Yet, despite his greed and occasional acts of wantonness, Li seems to have sincerely desired the good of his people. For this reason much has been forgiven him by those who look upon him as a giant among the men of his time.

F. W. WILLIAMS.

L'Afrique du Nord. Conférences organisées par la Société des Anciens Élèves et Élèves de l'École Libre des Sciences Politiques et présidées par MM. C. JONNART, le général LYAUTEY, E. ROUME, J. CH.-ROUX, S. PINCHON. [Bibliothèque d'Histoire Contemporaine.] (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1913. Pp. 275.)

WE have here five addresses delivered at as many conferences by well-known French colonial authorities. Augustin Bernard speaks of Algeria and Tunisia, de Lacharrière of Morocco, Camille Guy of French West Africa, André Tardieu of Egypt, and René Pinon of Tripolitana.

The eminent colonials whose names appear at the head of this article do not add greatly to the value of the work, as their remarks, delivered in the capacity of presiding officers, are brief and general in character. Roume, formerly governor-general of French West Africa, does say some interesting things concerning the control of the Sahara, the trans-saharan project, and the colonial army. Jonnart, formerly governor-general of Algeria, who enjoys to a remarkable extent the respect and confidence of the natives, speaks of the importance of the practical education of the native population and suggests that Tunisia and Algeria cannot be successfully developed in the interests of the European colonists at the expense of the natives. He refers also to the splendid opportunity to develop a formidable native army, but does not discuss this most important question. The remarks of General Lyautey are mostly an appreciation of the French army and of his collaborators in North Africa.

The reader will find much of interest in the principal addresses. Augustin Bernard sketches the development of Algeria and of Tunisia, and discusses the relations between the native population and the colonists. He calls particular attention to the problem presented by the presence of a European population of 900,000, less than half of French origin, settled among a native population of 6,000,000.

De Lacharrière describes Morocco, the country and the people, and very properly emphasizes the important fact that the population is Berber